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Dec. 13, 1976

Dear Harold:

As I rummaged through my old MLK/JER files, I came upon your mailing pieces for WHITEWASH books and FRAME-UP ("extraordinarily gripping," said Publishers Weekly). One day I hope to own all your books. I note FRAME-UP was distributed by Dutton. What % do you pay them? I have a show-business book I'm collaborating on; it's to be self-published and my co-author is asking about distribution.

I had a letter from James Earl this past week, responding to a request for an interview. One thing he wrote: "...with a couple exceptions, representatives of the communications industry have been the most active in opposing a jury trial in the case." True?

Can you, via Jim Lesar, help me on an interview with James Earl--either an in-person interview or one done by letter. A special kind of interview I'll explain. James Earl is scrupulous, in his letter to me, about clearing with counsel.

I don't want to ask <u>anything</u> that would prejudice James Earl's case--not even asking about his religious beliefs. Certainly not asking what he thinks about capital punishment and the Gary Gilmore case. Nor about James Earl's own case. Here are possible questions:

WHAT DO YOU READ? (BESIDES LAWBOOKS? AND MEDICAL BOOKS?)

DO YOU KEEP CONTACT WITH YOUR FAMILY? (STRIKE THIS IF PREJUDICIAL)

WHAT DO YOU DO AT PETROS? HOW GET ALONG WITH FELLOW INMATES?

HOW IS YOUR HEALTH? ANY EYE PROBLEMS? OTHER MEDICAL PROBLEMS?
HOW ARE THE PRISON MEALS? WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE FOODS? BEVERAGES?
(& OTHER QUESTIONS YOU & LESAR MIGHT SUGGEST.)

If James Earl answers such questions, I think it could indirectly help in your goal of getting him a full hearing.

James Earl asked me what company I'm with. As a free-lance, I'm not with any. But I'd do this: clear my copy with you-all; let you guide me on newspapers or mags to be queried about publishing story; and then I'd get a commitment from the publication accepting the interview not to do substantive editing.

Thanks for any help you can give.

Best,

Phil

P.S. In my interview request to James Earl, I enclosed a clipping on medical rights of prisoners, & some postage stamps. I think he appreciated it.